
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS RACIAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP SERIES

The State Water Board invites you to participate in a workshop where you will learn about our ongoing racial equity efforts and actively join us in developing a draft Racial Equity Action Plan. Please help us create a future where we equitably preserve, enhance, and restore California's water resources and drinking water for all Californians, and where race is not a predictor of professional outcomes for Water Boards employees.

DATES, LOCATION, REGISTRATION:

TO REGISTER, and for agendas and background materials, visit linktr.ee/ca.water.boards.racialequity.

STATEWIDE

July 20, 2022. 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Remote Participation Only
Spanish Interpretation Available

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

July 25, 2022. 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Remote & In-Person Participation
North Shore Beach and Yacht Club
Community Center
99155 Sea View Dr., Mecca, CA 92254
Spanish Interpretation Available

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

July 21, 2022. 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Remote & In-Person Participation
Win-River Resort
2100 Redding Rancheria Rd.
Redding, CA 96001

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

July 27, 2022. 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Remote & In-Person Participation
Self-Help Enterprises
8445 W Elowin Ct, Visalia, CA 93291
Spanish Interpretation Available

AGENDA

1. Overview of ongoing Water Boards racial equity efforts
2. Overview of Racial Equity Action Plan strategic directions
3. Small groups to share your feedback and suggestions

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Staff will present the same information at each meeting, though discussion questions may vary based on meeting location. You may participate in any session, even if you do not work or live in the area where it is being held. Prior event registration is not required.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Racial equity occurs when race can no longer predict life outcomes and when outcomes for all groups are improved (Government Alliance on Race and Equity). The Water Boards are working toward a future where we equitably implement our mission - to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations - and where race does not predict professional outcomes for Water Boards employees.

Last year, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted its Racial Equity Resolution (Resolution No. 2021-0050) condemning racism, xenophobia, and racial injustice and strengthening its commitment to diversity, equity, access, inclusion, and anti-racism. The resolution was one milestone on the Water Boards' ongoing journey of advancing racial equity. Community input has been so important throughout this process, and we intend to honor your contributions as we continue our ongoing racial equity journey with humility.

Our next step is to develop a Racial Equity Action Plan that sets three-year goals for the State Water Board to address racial inequities and that identifies metrics to measure progress. The plan we are developing is for the State Water Board, not the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards, which each have their own independent Governor-appointed boards. However, many of the Regional Boards are working on their own racial equity plans. In addition, we are collaborating with them on developing the State Water Board plan, which could serve as a model for plans that may be adopted by the Regional Water Boards.

We also aim to develop the Racial Equity Action Plan in collaboration with tribes, stakeholders, and the communities most impacted by racial inequities. At each of the public workshops, we will provide an overview of the Water Boards' racial equity work so far and share some of our draft Racial Equity Action Plan ideas. In breakout group discussions, we want to hear your recommendations for potential actions. The Racial Equity Action Plan will be organized using the following four strategic directions, which were developed by employees and community representatives:

1. **Integrating Racial Equity, Measuring Impact:** Infusing the racial equity resolution throughout Water Boards policies, programs, and practices; measuring progress toward goals and adapting when necessary.
2. **Creating and Maintaining Spaces for Inclusion and Belonging:** Addressing internal and external representation of Black, Indigenous, and people of color at all Water Boards levels; elevating overall understanding of racial equity.
3. **Activating Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Community Wisdom:** Fostering open communications for voices of Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities; incorporating wisdom from Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities in our decision-making processes.

4. **Sharing Power and Knowledge with Communities:** Offering ongoing training and dedicated resources to raise awareness of the Water Boards' role in managing the state's water resources; cultivating authentic relationships that empower communities as partners for racial equity.

The Water Boards staff presentation will be recorded and posted online. Breakout group discussions will not be video recorded, however Water Boards staff will be capturing notes from the discussions. Notes will be used to inform the development of the Racial Equity Action Plan and will not be attributed to individuals. Staff plan to release the draft Racial Equity Action Plan for public comment this fall and present it to the State Water Board in December. State Water Board members will not approve or deny the Racial Equity Action Plan, but staff will update the State Water Board on its implementation at least annually.

A special thanks to our workshop partners: Alianza, Central California Environmental Justice Network, California Indian Environmental Alliance, Climate Plan, Community Water Center, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Pueblo Unido, Restore the Delta, Save California Salmon, and Self-Help Enterprises.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

Spanish interpretation will be provided at the Statewide, Central California, and Southern California public workshops. To request language interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request at least 10 business days before the meeting (by June 29, 2022) by emailing OPP-LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov.

ACCESSIBILITY

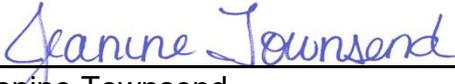
Telecommunications device for the hearing impaired (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. Individuals who require special accommodations: please contact the Clerk to the Board at (916) 341-5600.

MORE INFORMATION

- To review meeting materials and the Racial Equity Resolution, visit: linktr.ee/ca.water.boards.racialequity.
- Subscribe to our email distribution list by visiting waterboards.ca.gov/racial_equity and entering your email address under "Stay Informed."
- For other questions, please email us at racialequity@waterboards.ca.gov

June 24, 2022

Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board